THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 23rd July 1953.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at half-past eight of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Postponement of the election to the Baliapatam Panchayat Board.

908-A *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state why the Government have suddenly issued orders to postpone the election to the Baliapatam Panchayat Board in North Malabar originally fixed for 6th July 1953?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Government ordered that the elections to the panchayats in the Malabar District should be postponed till the rigour of the monsoon was over and consequently the elections to the Baliapatam Panchayat were postponed by the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know, Sir, when was the postponement order passed and when was it published in that area? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Sir, after the monsoon broke out, it was practically impossible to conduct elections in North Malabar. I cannot give the exact date. Some time ago the orders were issued and the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards postponed the elections and they will be taken up again in August."

SRI R. SIDDANNA GOWD :—" Sir, under whose recommendations were the elections postponed? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Sir, it was postponed on some representations of the people of Malabar, including our Hon. Minister."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Sir, are the Government aware of the great amount of inconvenience and trouble that would be caused to the people by the postponement of these elections? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Sir, hon. Members should know what monsoon in Malabar is. It is not like in other areas, say in Madras. It is practically impossible to conduct elections when there are rains in Malabar. It will be raining continuously for three or four days."

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SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" May I know, Sir, what exactly are the reasons which actuated the Hon. Minister for Law to write to the Hon. Minister for Local Administration so as to persuade him to postpone the elections? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" The elections to panchayat boards had to be postponed because of the monsoon, Sir."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" In the order published by the Regional Inspector of Local Boards, it is stated that the elections are postponed ' owing to rain and some other reasons '. May I know from the Hon. Minister what those ' some other reasons ' are? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Sir, they are that voters cannot be made to stand during rain or in the rain."

Compensation to the victims of the Railway accident at Molakalacheruvu.

* 908-B *Q.*—SRI D. SEETHARAMIAH : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state what steps the Government have taken to move the Central Government for securing adequate and speedy compensation for the victims of the railway accident at Molakalacheruvu, Madanapalle taluk?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" The Central Government have very promptly appointed a Claims Commissioner for settling claims for compensation for the victims of the railway accident. The Claims Commissioner took charge of the post on 1st July 1953."

SRI C. V. K. RAO :—" Sir, may I know how many died in the railway accident? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, I am not prepared for all kinds of questions like that. I have answered the question about the appointment of the Claims Commissioner."

SRI T. LAKSHMINARAYANA REDDI :—" May I know, Sir, what is the time given to the sufferers in the accident to apply for compensation? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" There are definite rules about these matters, Sir. It is under these rules that applications will be made and the Claims Commissioner will go into them and pay compensation under these rules."

Expenditure in connexion with the tour of the President of India.

* 909 *Q.*—SRI C. KANDASWAMI (on behalf of Sri M. Kalyanasundaram) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the total expenditure incurred by the Government in making bandobust arrangement for the tour of the President in different parts of our State during February 1953?